

**MINUTES OF THE
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2008

At a meeting of the **Planning and Economic Development Committee**, held Wednesday, November 12, 2008, in the Board Room, on the 9th Floor of the Administration Building, Mount Clemens, the following members were present:

Vosburg-Chair, Brdak, Brown, Camphous-Peterson, DeSaele, DiMaria,
Drolet, Duzyj, Gieleghem, Rengert and Crouchman (ex-officio).

Absent and excused were Haggerty, Mijac and Roberts.

Other Commissioners Also Present:

Commissioner Bruley
Commissioner Doherty
Commissioner J. Flynn
Commissioner Sauger
Commissioner Szczepanski
Commissioner Torrice

There being a quorum of the committee present, Chair Vosburg called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

AGENDA

MOTION

A motion was made by Duzyj, supported by Rengert, to adopt the agenda, as amended (to include item #5A). **The Motion Carried.**

MINUTES

MOTION

A motion was made by Rengert, supported by Brown, to approve the July 21, 2008 minutes of this committee, as written. **The Motion Carried.**

CONCUR WITH THE REQUEST FROM THE PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO REASSIGN 2 COUNTY RESEARCH LIBRARIANS TO THE PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSES OF ASSISTING IN THEIR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

MOTION

A motion was made by Brdak, supported by Rengert, to concur with the request from the Planning and Economic Development Department to reassign two County Research Librarians to the Planning and Economic Development Department for the purposes of assisting in their economic development efforts. **Forward to the Personnel Committee.**

The following commissioners spoke: DeSaele, Chair Vosburg, Drolet, Rengert, Bruley, Brown and Duzyj.

Chair Vosburg called for a vote on the motion and **The Motion Carried** with Drolet voting "No."

AUTHORIZE AMENDMENT TO THE URBAN COUNTY'S 2008 CDBG ANNUAL PLAN AND AUTHORIZE BOARD CHAIR TO SIGN FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING FUNDING UNDER THE FEDERAL NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY RENGERT, SUPPORTED BY DUZYJ, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZE THE NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE URBAN COUNTY'S 2008 CDBG ANNUAL PLAN AND AUTHORIZE THE BOARD CHAIR TO SIGN THE SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT SO THAT IT CAN BE SUBMITTED TO HUD ON DECEMBER 1, 2008.

The following commissioners spoke: Rengert, Duzyj and Chair Vosburg.

Chair Vosburg called for a vote on the motion and **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

PRESENTATION ON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Several handouts were distributed.

Ms. Suzanne Pixley, Chair, Macomb County Historical Commission gave a verbal presentation. Referring to the handouts, she overviewed the Annual Report - Macomb County Historical Commission. Key topics: Mission, Membership, Financial, What We Have Done in the Recent Past, What We Are Working on Now, What is the Focus for the

Future, and Looking Way Ahead.

MOTION

A motion was made by DeSaele, supported by Rengert, to receive and file the presentation on the Historical Commission from Ms. Suzanne Pixley, Chair, Macomb County Historical Commission.

The following commissioners spoke: Rengert, Chair Vosburg, DeSaele and J. Flynn.

Chair Vosburg called for a vote on the motion and **The Motion Carried.**

AUTHORIZE THE PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO WORK WITH THE FINANCE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENTS TO DEVELOP PROCEDURES TO ACCEPT ONLINE REGISTRATIONS AND CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS FOR MACOMB COUNTY

MOTION

A motion was made by Drolet, supported by Rengert, to authorize the Planning and Economic Development Department to work with the Finance Department and Information Technology Department to develop procedures to accept online registrations and credit card payments for Macomb County. **Forward to the Finance Committee.**

The following commissioners spoke: Brown, Duzyj, Chair Vosburg and DeSaele.

Chair Vosburg called for a vote on the motion and **The Motion Carried.**

REPORT ON MACOMB COUNTY S.P.A.R.C. INITIATIVE

A brochure entitled, Best Practices - Creating an efficient and effective site plan review process for Macomb County communities was distributed.

Mr. Rod Arroyo, Vice President, Birchler Arroyo Associates referred to the handout and gave a verbal presentation. Key topics covered included: Introduction – Best Practices, Plan for the Future, Implement the Vision, Cultivate Community Involvement, and Train Staff & Officials.

MOTION

A motion was made by Brown, supported by Duzyj, to receive and file the report on the Macomb County S.P.A.R.C. Initiative.

The following commissioners spoke: Brown, Duzyj, Chair Vosburg and Rengert.

Chair Vosburg called for a vote on the motion and **The Motion Carried.**

ADOPT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE VAN DYKE - 8 MILE GATEWAY COLLABORATIVE (OFFERED BY VOSBURG ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD)

Attached to the final agenda was a copy of the resolution Supporting the Van Dyke - 8 Mile Gateway Collaborative As a Michigan Center for Regional Excellence.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DiMARIA, SUPPORTED BY DUZYJ, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ADOPT A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE VAN DYKE – 8 MILE GATEWAY COLLABORATIVE AS A MICHIGAN CENTER FOR REGIONAL EXCELLENCE (**OFFERED BY VOSBURG ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD).** **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cassin gave an update on the SmartZone designation in Macomb County for a defense incubator and spoke about the funding sources.

Mr. Cassin recalled that the state is getting involved in the film industry. He asked Ms. Zardis to speak about what her involvement has been in bringing film companies to Macomb County. During her presentation, Ms. Zardis invited commissioners to attend a workshop that is being planned for local communities on Friday, December 5th that will be held at the MISD. A handout was distributed.

Lastly, Mr. Cassin spoke about an issue that is in front of the state legislature that Wayne County has put in which involves a development area adjacent to the airport. And, what they are pushing through the state level right now is the creation of 15 renaissance zones in that area, which would basically allow incoming companies to locate in that area at a zero tax rate. Which puts Macomb, Oakland, and the other 81 counties in great harm. He has been in contact with our Lobbyist and anything commissioners can do to help in this situation would be appreciated.

MOTION

A motion was made by Camphous-Peterson, supported by Duzyj, to receive and file the Departmental Activities Report from Mr. Stephen N. Cassin, Executive Director, Planning and Economic Development Department. **The Motion Carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Brown suggested advocating for renaissance zones here in Macomb County. He then asked for a report on the number of foreclosed properties by community and the process where these communities can apply for assistance. He requested a future agenda item to talk about the Foreclosure Assistance Programs for homeowners. He reminded commissioners that the Michigan Home Builders Association will be at the Budget Committee meeting on Tuesday. They will be talking about a stimulus package of bills that has been introduced in Lansing.

Commissioner DeSaele asked that Mr. Cassin keep her informed on the SmartZone. She then welcomed the students from Henry Ford II High School in Sterling Heights who were in the audience.

Commissioner Brdak said that Commissioner Roberts had asked him to let everyone know that she will be absent from today's meeting and tomorrow's meetings because she is attending a mandatory training in Lansing that is being put on by the State House.

Commissioner Rengert recalled that MSU Extension received some additional grant funding to assist with people that were up against foreclosure. He thought an update was going to be given this Friday at the Community Services Committee meeting.

Commissioner Brown asked if the Public Works Department could give a report on their findings regarding the Water Authority that was being studied. Commissioner J. Flynn recalled that Public Works reports to the Operational Services Committee.

Chair Vosburg informed commissioners that tomorrow she will be meeting with some people from the Planning and Public Works Departments for purposes of a conservation easement on the Clinton River. The piece of property is near the new Public Works Building. This committee already approved the concept, but tomorrow they should be able to finalize that process. Tomorrow's results will be referred to a committee of the whole or possibly Full Board next week.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

A motion was made by Brdak, supported by Duzyj, to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 a.m.
The Motion Carried.

Denise M. Jacks
Committee Reporter